



Loudoun County, Virginia

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Board of Supervisors

Vice Chairman Shawn Williams

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Welcome to the March edition of the Broad Run District newsletter. In February, the County Administrator presented his recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2016. During March, the Board will be holding worksessions on the budget with final adoption planned on April 1st. There is more information on the proposed budget below. In this month's newsletter, I have updates on the following subjects:

- Loudoun Community Survey Results
- County Administrator's Proposed Budget
- Budget Public Hearing Tomorrow
- Waxpool/Smith Switch/Farmwell Intersection Improvements
- 2015 Property Assessments Now Available
- Evergreen Mills Road/Belmont Ridge Road Intersection Study
- Community Events and Information

As always, I appreciate your feedback on this newsletter. **Feel** free to call me at 703-771-5088 or email me at shawn.williams@loudoun.gov with any questions or comments. For regular updates on what I am doing as your Supervisor and to see what is going on around the County and in the Broad Run District, follow this link and 'like' my Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/williamsforsupervisor?ref=br_tf.

Thanks,

Shawn

Loudoun Community Survey

Every two years the Board of Supervisors undertakes a community survey to better understand the needs of county residents. Residents of Loudoun County continue to give very high marks to the county for its public safety, overall quality of life, value provided for the tax dollar, quality of county services, rural character, and proximity to amenities and jobs. It's great to see that Loudoun residents give such high marks, we are certainly fortunate to live in such a great community.

The concerns most frequently expressed by residents relate to traffic and growth. Traffic was the top concern of survey respondents (33.2%), with growth and development second (27.6%) and schools third at (13%). The results of the survey confirm that the Board's strategic direction to focus on 'catching up' on important infrastructure like roads and schools is on the right track. I think the survey results also reinforce the importance of carefully managing future growth and fully utilizing new transportation options such as Metrorail. Additionally, continuing to focus on

economic development and bringing jobs closer to home will help both in terms of increased tax revenue (lowering the burden on homeowners) and shorter commutes.

The 2014 Loudoun County Survey of Residents was conducted by the Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia. The complete 2014 Loudoun County Survey of Residents and past surveys are online at www.loudoun.gov/survey.

FY 2016 Proposed Budget

Last month, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented a proposed budget for the Loudoun County government for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY 16) to the Board of Supervisors. The proposed budget totals \$2.2 billion in appropriations for the general county government and school system.

In preparing the budget, the County Administrator worked to scrutinize their budgets and look for opportunities to reallocate resources to meet needs wherever possible without new local tax funding. Seven departments brought forward FY 15 mid-year reallocation plans that diverted \$1.9 million in requests for additional funding during the budget process. In the FY 2016 proposed budget, an additional \$1.3 million of reallocated expenditures is proposed to address critical needs, which require no new local tax funding.

The proposed FY 16 budget includes enhancements that focus on the opening of new facilities, public safety, social safety net services, and technology initiatives. Also proposed is a performance-based pay increase for county employees to continue the Board's pay-for-performance system. The County Administrator and his management team have done an excellent job to contain costs while service demands continue to increase with Loudoun's growth, with the non-school operational budget growing substantially slower than the population.

The FY 2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) continues the Board's strategic focus on schools and transportation infrastructure. Key school projects that are funded include the Academies of Loudoun (STEM magnet school) and the second half of the Broad Run High School renovation. There are thirty-seven roadway projects planned for funding over the next five years, totaling over \$700 million. Major projects for the Broad Run District include the completion of Gloucester Parkway to Route 28, widening Belmont Ridge Road, widening Farmwell Road, improving intersections along Waxpool Road and Prentice Road (connecting between Loudoun County Parkway and Sterling Boulevard) and Westwind Drive (connecting Loudoun County Parkway and Route 606 south of the Greenway). These transportation improvements, along with the Metrorail Silver Line, should significantly relieve the traffic situation in the Broad Run District over the next few years.

I want to provide my thoughts on where we will end up with the budget this year, which I anticipate will be the smoothest yet in my term. I attribute this to two key factors. One is that the County has an outstanding person in charge of County government in County Administrator Tim Hemstreet, who runs a lean organization and insists on creative reallocation rather than taking the easy path of just asking for more. The second is a change at the top at the Loudoun

county public school system. Dr. Eric Williams came on board as the new Superintendent last July, with all due respect to the former Superintendent who built a great system during an intense period of growth, Dr. Williams has been a breath of fresh air in terms of transparency and cooperation. We will likely have a small gap operationally to make up but I sense we will get very close. The only tricky issue I see us having this year is accelerating a middle and elementary school in the capital budget with an already maxed out debt allocation. I have already spoken to my colleagues on the Finance Committee and we will work with the School Board to resolve these potential overcrowding issues.

As a participant in the process I want to thank my school board colleagues for such a good hire in Dr. Williams. It has been game changer for Loudoun County. It has long been the public sentiment that the School Board and the Board of Supervisors have some antagonistic strained relationship and things would all be better if we could just get along. Being in the bubble, if you will, the last four years I want to tell you I am close friends with several school board members and that relationship is not the problem. Yes, it is true we have defined missions that often compete. Their job is to advocate for the Schools and get as much resources as possible for their agency. The supervisors on the other hand have to consider not starving the other thirty-two County agencies that also have increased demands. Asides from that whether we like to hear it or not in the “wealthiest county” there are people who struggle with increased assessments on fixed incomes. The answer as you have often heard me say many times is more revenue positive commercial investment and that is a competitive space right now. Our economic development director Buddy Rizer is doing a stellar job and grabbing the commercial opportunities he can. I am glad people are catching on to this as a sound fiscal principle for our county as it needs to be at the forefront of any future Board’s vision. I am confident with the change made last year there will be cooperation on what has historically been a tense discussion.

A final note as we listen to hundreds of community members during the public hearings this week on the budget. If you have more then you need in terms of resources please consider getting involved in helping those that are struggling. Looking after each other shouldn’t only be a function of government it should be part of what we are as good blessed people in an affluent area. For local volunteer opportunities, click here.

<http://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?NID=1033>

More information, including the proposed budget for FY 16, the County Administrator’s FY 16 budget presentation, and the adopted FY 15 budget, is available on the Loudoun County website at www.loudoun.gov/budget.

Comment on the Budget

If you have questions or comments about the proposed FY 2016 budget, please email me or call my office at 703-771-5088. To provide comments to the entire Board of Supervisors by e-mail at loudounbudget@loudoun.gov, by calling the Citizen Comment Line, 703-777-0115; or by writing to the Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177.

Waxpool Road/Smith Switch Road/Farmwell Road Intersection Improvements

Many of you are all too well aware of traffic issues at this intersection. At times during the afternoon peak hour, the queue for the westbound left-turning vehicles will exceed the length of the turn bay and spill back into the through lane, disrupting operations for the entire approach. During the morning peak hour, queues along eastbound Waxpool Road spill back well past the Verizon campus entrance.

Last year, I brought forward an item to the Board of Supervisors to study this intersection for improvements. At our February 4th business meeting, the results of that study came back with two recommendations. The first recommendation is a short-term fix that proposes converting one of the two existing northbound Waxpool Road through lanes to a right-turn lane. This improvement project requires modifications to pavement markings, signage, and signal timings and is anticipated to cost approximately \$60,000 and to take approximately 12 months to complete. The Board voted unanimously to fund this improvement, so construction should be underway soon.

For longer-term fixes, the study proposed lengthening the existing westbound Waxpool Road left-turn lane to provide additional storage capacity for the west-bound left turn movement during the afternoon rush hour. Also proposed is the construction of an additional right turn lane on the northbound approach into this intersection. The County Administrator has proposed \$4,000,000 in funding for these improvements in FY 2016. Funding will be finalized for these improvements on April 1st.

For more information on the study and proposed improvements, click here.
(<http://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalinternet/0/doc/155725/Electronic.aspx>)

2015 Property Assessments Available Online

Loudoun County real estate assessments for tax year 2015 are now available online at www.loudoun.gov/parceldatabase. The county's total taxable real estate increased to \$66.5 billion, up 6% overall. An average existing suburban single family detached home saw the largest average year-over-year increase in value of 9.3% while condominiums saw a decline of 4.92%. These numbers are only averages and property owners may see changes that are more or less than these figures. The total value of commercial property in the county was up 5.4% over 2014, with data centers having the greatest impact on that class.

Residents will notice significant changes in their printed notices this year. Due to legislation adopted during last year's General Assembly session, localities must now report on assessment notices not only the new and immediately prior assessed values of property, but the prior two years' values, total tax levies, and the percentage year-over-year changes in total taxes levied. Notices have also been enhanced to provide property owners additional information regarding their real property. This year, notices will inform property owners if one or more of the following apply: Agricultural or Forestal District, Historic District, Permanent Open Space Easement, Land Use Assessment, Tax Relief for the Elderly or Disabled, or Affordable Dwelling Unit. Commercial property owners will also see the deadline for submitting their Income and Expense information to the Commissioner. Commercial property owners can expect to begin receiving income and expense forms in the mail in April or can obtain the necessary reporting form online.

Property owners who believe their assessments are incorrect may file an Application for Review with the Commissioner online at www.loudoun.gov/reaa by March 9, 2015. Thereafter, appeals may be made to the Board of Equalization until June 1. Taxpayers may also communicate with their respective appraiser whose name and contact information is listed on the assessment notice, or by calling the Commissioner's office at 703 777-0260 weekdays during regular business hours of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM or by emailing realestate@loudoun.gov. The Commissioner of the Revenue's offices are located at the County Government Center, at 1 Harrison St., SE in Leesburg and in the Loudoun Tech Center at 21641 Ridgetop Circle, Suite 100, in Sterling.

Transportation Project Spotlight: Evergreen Mills/Belmont Ridge Road Intersection

Heading south from the Ashburn/Brambleton area to Route 50, there is a major traffic bottleneck at the intersection of Belmont Ridge Road and Evergreen Mills Road and continuing down on Gum Spring road. Last year, the Board of Supervisors initiated a study to look at possible traffic flow improvements for this area. At the Belmont Ridge Road and Evergreen Mills Road intersection, the study recommended the addition of an exclusive southbound left-turn lane and the lengthening of the exclusive westbound right-turn lane. For the Evergreen Mills Road and Gum Spring Road intersection, the study recommended rebuilding the intersection to take out the skewed curve currently present and adding a second northbound left-turn lane with two westbound receiving lanes along Evergreen Mills Road to Belmont Ridge Road as well as an exclusive eastbound right-turn lane and westbound left-turn lane. The Board will be considering funding for these improvements as part of the FY 2016 budget process. For more information on the study, [click here](http://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalinternet/0/doc/155726/Electronic.aspx).

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One of the longer-term fixes to this intersection will be the opening of Loudoun County Parkway between Brambleton and Route 50, which should divert some of the traffic away from this intersection. Due to the recent proffer amendments the Board approved for the Brambleton development, this final portion of Loudoun County Parkway is scheduled to open in 2017. Another major improvement planned in this area is Northstar Boulevard, which will connect from western Brambleton to Route 50. Funding for this improvement is planned over the next six years.

Community Events and Information:

Ashburn Volunteer and Fire Rescue Pancake Breakfast: On May 1st from 8:00am to noon, bring the whole family to enjoy a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, coffee and juices. Best of all, you don't have to cook, or clean! Due to renovations at Fire Station 6, the Pancake Breakfast will be held at Dominion Trail Elementary School at 44045 Bruceton Mills Circle. The cost of the breakfast is \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for Senior Citizens, and \$4.00 for children ages 3-8. Children under 3 eat for free.

Van Metre 5 Mile Broadlands Run: The 23rd Annual Van Metre 5-Mile Run and One-Mile Fun Run/Walk benefits Children's National Medical Center. Serious runners, weekend and occasional joggers, walkers, and even strollers (for One-Mile Fun Run/Walk only) of all skill

levels are invited to participate. The run will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 8:30 am 5-Mile Run, 8:35 am Kids Run for Fun & One-Mile Fun Run/ Walk meeting at the Broadlands Marketplace. For more information, click here. (<http://www.vanmetre5milerun.org/>)